

## CLAIMS

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1. A method performed by a reservation communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving reservation information from each of a plurality of businesses having a good or a service that may be reserved by customers;

organizing the reservation information according to predetermined considerations responsive to the step of receiving the reservation information;

10 providing the reservation information to the customers responsive to the step of organizing the reservation information;

receiving customer information, including a request for a reservation for the good or the service, from a customer responsive to the step of providing the reservation information;

15 making the reservation for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses for the customer responsive to the step of receiving the request for the reservation;

and  
transmitting electronic navigation information to the customer over a communication link responsive to the step of making the reservation, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer.

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2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing at least one of the customer and the one of the plurality of businesses with confirmation information representing that the reservation has been made responsive to the step of making the reservation.

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3. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

updating the reservation information responsive to the step of making the reservation.

4. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

30 receiving a payment from the customer for the good or the service associated with the reservation responsive to the step of making the reservation; and

providing the customer with receipt information representing that the payment has been received responsive to the step of receiving the payment;

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notifying the one of the plurality of businesses that the reservation has been paid for by the customer responsive to the step of receiving the payment; and

forwarding the payment for the reservation to the one of the plurality of businesses responsive to the step of receiving the payment.

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5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

receiving a request for the electronic navigation information from the customer responsive to the step of making the reservation.

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6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the customer information includes a customer profile representing preferences of the customer for the good or the service desired by the customer.

7. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

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auctioning the good or the service to the customers responsive to negotiations between the reservation communication device and the customers for the good or the service.

8. A method performed by a reservation communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

receiving reservation information from each of a plurality of businesses having a good or  
5 a service that may be reserved by customers;

organizing the reservation information according to predetermined considerations responsive to the step of receiving the reservation information;

providing the reservation information to the customers responsive to the step of organizing the reservation information;

10 receiving customer information, including a request for a reservation for a good or a service, from a customer responsive to the step of providing the reservation information;

making the reservation for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses for the customer responsive to the step of receiving the request for the reservation;

updating the reservation information responsive to the step of making the reservation;

15 providing at least one of the customer and the one of the plurality of businesses with confirmation information representing that the reservation has been made responsive to the step of making the reservation;

notifying the one of the plurality of businesses that the reservation has been made by the customer responsive to the steps of making the reservation;

20 receiving a request for electronic navigation information from the customer responsive to the step of making the reservation, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer; and

transmitting the electronic navigation information to the customer over a communication  
25 link responsive to the step of receiving the request for the electronic navigation information.

9. A method according to claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a payment from the customer for the good or the service associated with the reservation responsive to the step of making the reservation; and

providing the customer with receipt information representing that the payment has been

5 received responsive to the step of receiving the payment;

notifying the one of the plurality of businesses that the reservation has been paid for by the customer responsive to the step of receiving the payment; and

forwarding the payment for the reservation to the one of the plurality of businesses responsive to the step of receiving the payment.

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10. A method according to claim 8 wherein the customer information includes a customer profile representing preferences of the customer for the good or the service desired by the customer.

15 11. A method according to claim 8 further comprising the step of:

auctioning the good or the service to the customers responsive to negotiations between the reservation communication device and the customers for the good or the service.

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12 A method performed by a customer communication device operated by a customer, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

accessing reservation information representing a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses;

5 making a request for a reservation of the good or the service responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, responsive to the step of making the request; and

10 receiving electronic navigation information from a reservation communication device over a communication link responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer.

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13. A method according to claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a payment to one of the reservation communication device and a business communication device for the good or the service associated with the reservation responsive to the step of making the request for the reservation; and

20 receiving receipt information representing that the payment has been received by the one of the reservation communication device and the business communication device responsive to the step of transmitting the payment.

14. A method according to claim 12 further comprising the step of:

25 transmitting a request for the electronic navigation information responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein the customer information includes a customer profile representing preferences of the customer for the good or the service desired by the  
30 customer.

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16. A method according to claim 12 further comprising the step of:  
negotiating with the reservation communication device for the good or the service desired  
by the customer responsive to the reservation communication device auctioning the good or the  
service to the customer.

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17. A method according to claim 12:  
wherein the steps of accessing the reservation information, making the request and  
receiving the confirmation information are performed by a fixed customer communication device,  
and

10 wherein the step of receiving the electronic navigation information is performed by a  
mobile customer communication device.

18. A method according to claim 12 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the confirmation information to the one of the plurality of businesses  
15 located at the business geographic location responsive to the customer arriving at the business  
geographic location.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the confirmation information is communicated  
to a business communication device, associated with the one of the plurality of businesses, at the  
20 business geographic location over a radio frequency communication link responsive to the  
customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

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20. A method performed by a customer communication device operated by a customer, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

accessing reservation information representing a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses;

5 making a request for a reservation of the good or the service responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, responsive to the step of making the request;

10 transmitting a request for electronic navigation information responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer;

receiving the electronic navigation information from a reservation communication device over a communication link responsive to the step of transmitting the request for the electronic navigation information; and

communicating the confirmation information to the one of the plurality of businesses located at the business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer responsive to the customer arriving at the business geographic location.

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21. A method according to claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a payment to one of the reservation communication device and a business communication device for the good or the service associated with the reservation responsive to the step of making the request for the reservation; and

25 receiving receipt information representing that the payment has been received by the one of the reservation communication device and the business communication device responsive to the step of transmitting the payment.

22. A method according to claim 20 wherein the customer information includes a customer profile representing preferences of the customer for the good or the service desired by the customer.

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23. A method according to claim 20 further comprising the step of:

negotiating with the reservation communication device for the good or the service desired by the customer responsive to the reservation communication device auctioning the good or the service to the customer.

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24. A method according to claim 20:

wherein the steps of accessing the reservation information, making the request and receiving the confirmation information are performed by a fixed customer communication device, and

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wherein the step of receiving the electronic navigation information is performed by a mobile customer communication device.

25. A method according to claim 20 wherein the confirmation information is communicated to a business communication device, associated with the one of the plurality of businesses, at the

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business geographic location over a radio frequency communication link responsive to the customer communication device, associated with the customer, being proximate to the business communication device.



26. A method performed by a business communication device operated by a business, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

communicating reservation information between the business communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from the business; and

transmitting location information to the reservation communication device responsive to the step of communicating the reservation information, wherein the location information represents a business geographic location of the good or the service to permit the reservation communication device to transmit electronic navigation information to a customer responsive to the customer making a reservation for the good or the service, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to the business geographic location.

27. A method according to claim 26 further comprising the step of:

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made, from at least one of the reservation communication device and the customer.

28. A method according to claim 27 wherein the confirmation information is received from a customer communication device, associated with the customer, over a radio frequency communication link responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device at the business geographic location.

29. A method according to claim 26 further comprising the step of:

receiving the reservation information representing that the customer has made a reservation for the good or the service.

30. A method according to claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a payment from one of the customer and the reservation communication device for the good or the service associated with the reservation; and

providing the one of the customer and the reservation communication device providing the payment with receipt information representing that the payment has been received responsive to the step of receiving the payment.

31. A method performed by a business communication device operated by a parking facility, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

communicating reservation information between the business communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from the parking facility;

transmitting location information to the reservation communication device responsive to the step of communicating the reservation information, wherein the location information represents a business geographic location of the good or the service to permit the reservation communication device to transmit electronic navigation information to a customer responsive to the customer making a reservation for the good or the service, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to the business geographic location;

receiving the reservation information representing that a reservation has been made by the customer for the good or the service;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made, from at least one of the reservation communication device and the customer;

receiving a payment from one of the customer and the reservation communication device for the good or the service associated with the reservation; and

providing the one of the customer and the reservation communication device providing the payment with receipt information representing that the payment has been received responsive to the step of receiving the payment.

32. A method according to claim 31 wherein the confirmation information is received from a customer communication device, associated with the customer, over a radio frequency communication channel responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device at the business geographic location.

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33 A reservation communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

5 a communication interface adapted to communicate reservation information between the reservation communication device and each of a plurality of businesses having a good or a service that may be reserved by customers, and adapted to communicate customer information between the reservation communication device and customers of the good or the service;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the reservation information and the customer information received via the communication interface; and

10 a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

receiving the reservation information via the communication interface for storage in the memory unit;

15 organizing the reservation information in the memory unit according to predetermined considerations responsive to the step of receiving the reservation information;

providing the reservation information to the customers responsive to the step of organizing the reservation information;

20 receiving the customer information, including a request for a reservation for the good or the service, from a customer via the communication interface for storage in the memory unit responsive to the step of providing the reservation information;

making the reservation for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses for the customer by updating the reservation information in the memory unit responsive to the step of receiving the request for the reservation; and

25 transmitting electronic navigation information to the customer over a communication link via the communication interface responsive to the step of making the reservation, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer.

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34. A reservation communication device according to claim 33 wherein the communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface.

- 5 35. A reservation communication device according to claim 34 wherein the radio frequency communication interface is adapted to communicate packet data signals.

36. A reservation communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

a communication interface adapted to communicate reservation information between the reservation communication device and each of a plurality of businesses having a good or a service that may be reserved by customers, and adapted to communicate customer information between the reservation communication device and customers of the good or the service, wherein the communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the reservation information and the customer information received via the communication interface;

a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

receiving the reservation information via the communication interface for storage in the memory unit;

organizing the reservation information in the memory unit according to predetermined considerations responsive to the step of receiving the reservation information;

providing the reservation information to the customers responsive to the step of organizing the reservation information;

receiving the customer information, including a request for a reservation for the good or the service, from a customer via the communication interface for storage in the memory unit responsive to the step of providing the reservation information;

making the reservation for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses for the customer by updating the reservation information in the memory unit responsive to the step of receiving the request for the reservation; and

transmitting electronic navigation information to the customer over a communication link via the communication interface responsive to the step of making the reservation, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer.

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37. A reservation communication device according to claim 36 wherein the radio frequency communication interface, of the communication interface, is adapted to communicate packet data signals.

38. A customer communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

a first communication interface adapted to communicate customer information, including reservation information and electronic navigation information, between the customer communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses, and wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the customer information received via the first communication interface; and

a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

accessing the reservation information via the first communication interface;

making a request for a reservation of the good or the service via the first communication interface responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, via the first communication interface responsive to the step of making the request; and

receiving electronic navigation information from the reservation communication device over a communication channel via the first communication interface responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information.

39. A customer communication device according to claim 38 further comprising:

a second communication interface coupled to the controller and the memory unit and adapted to transmit the confirmation information from the customer communication device to a business communication device, associated with the one of the plurality of businesses, at the business geographic location responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

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40. A customer communication device according to claim 39 wherein the second communication interface further comprises:

5 a radio frequency communication interface adapted to transmit the confirmation information over a radio frequency communication channel responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

41. A customer communication device according to claim 38 further comprising:

10 a location-determining device coupled to the controller and adapted to determine the customer geographic location associated with the customer communication device.

42. A customer communication device according to claim 38 wherein the first communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface.

15 43. A customer communication device according to claim 40 wherein the radio frequency communication interface is adapted to communicate packet data signals.



44. A customer communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

5 a first communication interface adapted to communicate customer information, including reservation information and electronic navigation information, between the customer communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, and wherein the first communication interface further  
10 comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the customer information received via the first communication interface;

15 a location determining device coupled to the controller and adapted to determine the customer geographic location associated with the customer communication device; and

a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

accessing the reservation information via the first communication interface;

20 making a request for a reservation of the good or the service via the first communication interface responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, via the first communication interface responsive to the step of making the request; and

25 receiving electronic navigation information from the reservation communication device over a communication channel via the first communication interface responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information.

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45. A customer communication device according to claim 44 further comprising:

a second communication interface coupled to the controller and the memory unit and adapted to transmit the confirmation information from the customer communication device to a business communication device, associated with the one of the plurality of businesses, at the business geographic location responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

46. A customer communication device according to claim 45 wherein the second communication interface further comprises:

a radio frequency communication interface adapted to transmit the confirmation information over a radio frequency communication channel responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

47. A customer communication device according to claim 44 wherein the radio frequency communication interface, associated with the first communication interface, is adapted to communicate packet data signals.

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48. A business communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

5 a first communication interface adapted to communicate reservation information and location information between the business communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from a business associated with the business communication device, wherein the location information represents a business geographic location of the good or the service of the business to permit the reservation communication device to transmit electronic navigation information to a customer responsive to the customer making a reservation for the  
10 good or the service, and wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to the business geographic location;

1 a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the reservation information and the location information; and

15 a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

communicating the reservation information between the business communication device and the reservation communication device via the first communication interface; and

20 transmitting location information to the reservation communication device via the first communication interface responsive to the step of communicating the reservation information.

49. A business communication device according to claim 48 further comprising:

25 a second communication interface coupled to the controller and the memory unit and adapted to receive confirmation information from a customer communication device, associated with the customer, responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device at the business geographic location.

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50. A customer communication device according to claim 49 wherein the second communication interface further comprises:

5 a radio frequency communication interface adapted to transmit the confirmation information over a radio frequency communication channel responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

51. A business communication device according to claim 48 further comprising:

a location-determining device coupled to the controller and adapted to determine the business geographic location associated with the business communication device.

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52. A business communication device according to claim 48 wherein the first communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface.

15 53. A business communication device according to claim 52 wherein the radio frequency communication interface is adapted to communicate packet data signals.

54. A business communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

5 a first communication interface adapted to communicate reservation information and location information between the business communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from a parking facility associated with the business communication device, wherein the location information represents a business geographic location of the good or the service of the parking facility to permit the reservation communication device to transmit electronic navigation information to a customer responsive to the customer making a reservation  
10 for the good or the service, and wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to the business geographic location, and wherein the first communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface;

15 a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the reservation information and the location information; and

a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

20 communicating the reservation information between the business communication device and the reservation communication device via the first communication interface; and

transmitting location information to the reservation communication device via the first communication interface responsive to the step of communicating the reservation information.

25 55. A business communication device according to claim 54 further comprising:

a second communication interface coupled to the controller and the memory unit and adapted to receive confirmation information from a customer communication device, associated with the customer, responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device at the business geographic location.

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56. A customer communication device according to claim 55 wherein the second communication interface further comprises:

5 a radio frequency communication interface adapted to transmit the confirmation information over a radio frequency communication channel responsive to the customer communication device being proximate to the business communication device.

57. A business communication device according to claim 54 further comprising:

a location-determining device coupled to the controller and adapted to determine the business geographic location associated with the business communication device.

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58. A business communication device according to claim 55 wherein the radio frequency communication interface is adapted to communicate packet data signals.